

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A filter material comprising:

at least one nonheatsealable ply; and

at least one, heatsealable ply comprising fibers of synthetic material and an adhesion promoter.
2. The filter material according to claim 1, wherein the adhesion promoter is a polyolefin grafted with functional maleic anhydride groups.
3. The filter material according to claim 2, wherein the adhesion promoter is present in the filter material in an amount from about 2 to about 25% by weight, based on the weight of the at least one heatsealable ply comprising fibers of synthetic material.
4. The filter material according to claim 3, wherein the at least one heatsealable ply comprising fibers of synthetic material consists of polypropylene, polyethylene, vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate copolymer or polyester.
5. The filter material according to claim 4, wherein the first, nonheatsealable ply consists of natural fibers and is constructed to have wet strength.

6. The filter material according to claim 5, wherein the at least one nonheatsealable ply has a basis weight between about 8 and about 40 g/m² and a DIN ISO 9237 air permeability from about 300 to about 4,000 l/m².s.
7. The filter material according to claim 6, wherein the at least one heatsealable ply has a basis weight from about 1 to about 15 g/m².
8. A process for producing a filter material, said process comprising a wet-laid process employing an adhesion promoter in an amount from 2 to 25% by weight, based on the weight of at least one heatsealable ply comprising fibers of a synthetic material.
9. The process according to claim 8, further comprising a subsequent drying operation carried out at temperatures from about 150°C to about 200°C.
10. A process for producing a filter material, said process comprising laying down a blend of fibers of a heatsealable material and an adhesion promoter in an amount from about 2 to about 25% by weight, based on the weight of at least one heatsealable ply comprising fibers of synthetic material in the course of a melt-blown process on a first ply comprising natural fibers.
11. The use of the filter material according to any one of claims 1 to 7 for producing tea bags, coffee bags or tea or coffee filters.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one plate includes at least one hole and said closed frame includes at least one hole for receiving a fastener for mounting the at least one temporary plate to the closed frame.
13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bar includes at least one channel for receiving feet of the alphanumeric characters.
14. The apparatus of claim 1, further including at least one permanent plate having integral alphanumeric characters, the at least one permanent plate mounted to the front face of the closed frame.